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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/764,288

01/23/2004

Nurit Livnah

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06/30/2006

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EXAMINER

GUPTA, ANISH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1654

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



Art Unit: 1654

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-3 7-18, drawn to a compound of formula I and formula II(a) and methods of using such compounds.

Group II, claim(s) 4, drawn to compounds of formula II(b).

Group III, claim(s) 5, drawn to compound of formula II(c).

Group IV, claim(s) 6, drawn to compounds of formula II(d).

Group IV, claim(s) 19, drawn to a method of diagnosing a disease.

The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The MPEP state "If, however, an independent claim does not avoid the prior art, then the question whether there is still an inventive link between all the claims dependent on that claim needs to be carefully considered. If there is no link remaining, an objection of lack of unity a posteriori (that is, arising only after assessment of the prior art) may be raised." Here, the reference of Alessi et al. (FEBS Lett. 1996) teaches peptides that anticipate claim 4, 5, and 6 and the reference of Gesquiere et al. anticipate the generic of claim 1. Thus, the claimed invention does not contain a special technical feature that the claimed invention makes over the prior art. The compounds of Group I-IV are independent and distinct because they are structurally distinct from one another. The placement of variable W-L changes in each formula. A search for a compound with variable W-L in position R4 would be

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention.

These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular pathologies, hemorrhagic shock, obesity, inflammatory disease, disease of the central nervous system, autoimmune disease.

Art Unit: 1654

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

The following claim(s) are generic: 17-19.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: each of the diseases listed correspond to a different patient population, different etiologies, and different end-points. Treatment of obesity is independent from the treatment of hemorrhagic shock.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

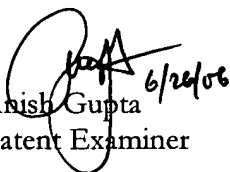
The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Art Unit: 1654

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anish Gupta whose telephone number is (571)272-0965. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang, can normally be reached on (571) 272-0562. The fax phone number of this group is (571)-273-8300.

  
Anish Gupta  
Patent Examiner